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WASHINGTON BUREAU
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Dear Harold:

You misunderstood me the other day. I meant to say that I would answer your questions at that time, over the telephone, because most of the answers would prove to be most innocuous and meaningless. I was surprised that you didn't then run through your list of questions. I should have suspected from that that you didn't understand completely, because a man of your deep curiosity would surely have had something to ask in the wake of such a broad statement by me. It didn't occur to me that you expected me to write down a point-by-point reply, in addition to the telephone conversation.

As I said, there is no mystery to how I came to write the story. I had a tickler file that reminded me to call Burke Marshall, which I did. He was on vacation, and when he returned I got him immediately. He said he had granted Dr. Lattimer's request and hadn't acted on the others. I reached Lattimer, told him of Marshall's decision (he had received a letter from Marshall that the Archives didn't consider a final approval) and he arranged the date. Then I saw him after he was the items. I've kept in touch with Dr. Wecht, but he hasn't been approved by Marshall yet. If Burke drags his feet much longer there will be a story in that. Beyond that, I don't think there's anything to add, but I'll certainly answer any questions you have. There may be some tricky business afoot here, but I'm not knowingly a part of it so I don't mind telling anything.

I hope your hand heals quickly--it's a damned inconvenient malady for a writer to have.

Best,

Fred